ing form, while relieved from the need, which they have experienced during the past ten years, of withholding a large part of the current revenue annually for the protection of this property whenever the improvement of the streets through it should be ordered by the city. As a first step in the marked advance to be looked for, the Trustees have authorized the immediate grading of about twenty acres of ground adjoining the present Garden, according to plans prepared some years since by Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, the intention being to plant this area as a permanent addition to the grounds, in such a way as to add greatly to their attractiveness and to present in a compact form the leading features of the North American flora, which it is proposed to arrange essentially in the well-known botanical sequence of Bentham and Hooker; while some eighty acres adjoining are expected to be improved within a few years, in accordance with plans furnished by the same landscape architects, in such a manner as to represent as many as possible of the natural orders of plants, so arranged as to exemplify the more modern classification of Engler and Prantl.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Academy of Arts and Sciences has granted from the income of the Rumford fund $500 to Professor E. C. Pickering, for the purpose of carrying out an investigation on the brightness of faint stars by coöperation with certain observatories possessing large telescopes, and $100 to Professor T. W. Richards, in aid of a research on the transition points of crystallized salts.

COLONEL F. F. HILDER, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, has just been detailed as a special agent of the Government Board of the Pan-American Exposition, to visit the Philippines, for the purpose of making scientific and especially ethnologic collections. It is his plan to visit as many of the islands as practicable before the opening of the rainy season, and make collections illustrating the industries, modes of life and social conditions prevailing among both the wild and settled tribes.

MR. EDWARD G. GARDINER, Secretary of the Marine Biological Laboratory, accompanied by Mr. George M. Grey, Collector and Curator of the Supply Department, have left for Puerto Rico for a few week's tour along certain portions of the coast, with the intention of examining and making collections of the marine fauna. Mr. Gardiner expects to have the companionship and assistance of Admiral Grinell, retired, who is familiar with the language and mode of life in this island.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER, professor of physiology in the University of Cambridge, one of the secretaries of the Royal Society and last year president of the British Association, has consented to become a candidate for the University of London's seat in Parliament, vacant by the elevation of Sir John Lubbock to the peerage.

THE Hon. Richard Olney has been appointed to the vacancy in the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution caused by the death of D. P. Johnston.

DR. H. C. BOLTON has been elected president of the Chemical Society of Washington, and Mr. Whitman Cross president of the Geological Society of Washington.

PROFESSOR MILNE-EDWARDS has been elected vice-president of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

DR. F. FREIHERR VON RICHTHOFEN, professor of geography at Berlin, has been given the Bavarian Maximilian order for art and science.

DR. E. R. SCHNEIDER, professor of chemistry at Berlin, has been given an order of the crown on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate. The same order has been given to Dr. Felix Klein, professor of mathematics at Göttingen.

M. TH. RIBOT, professor of psychology of the Collège de France, has been elected to the chair of the Paris Academy of Moral Sciences made vacant by the death of M. Nourrisson.

PROFESSOR HENRY S. CARHART of the department of physics of the University of Michigan, who has been spending the year in Germany, is now in Zürich studying the subject of electrical engineering with Professor Weber.

PROFESSOR W. P. MASON, of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has gone te Europe to be absent until May.

THE president of the Local Government Board, London, has appointed Mr. William Henry Power, F.R.S., the assistant medical officer and medical inspector for general sanitary purposes of the Board, to the office of medical officer of the Board, in the room of the late Sir Richard Thorne Thorne, K.C.B. Dr. H. Franklin Parsons has been appointed assistant medical officer and medical inspector for general sanitary purposes, and Dr. R. Bruce Low has been appointed an assistant medical officer.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. John E. Davis, profe-sor of mathematical physics in the University of Wisconsin.

WE regret also to record the death, on January 23d, of Professor Henry A. Hazen, one of the chief forecasters of the U. S. Weather Bureau at the age of 50 years. Mr. Hazen was killed as the result of a bicycle accident which occured the day before.

THE death of David Edward Hughes, F.R.S., is announced at the age of 60 years. He was the author of numerous papers on electricity and magnetism and the inventor of the Hughes printing telegraph instrument, of the microphone and of the induction balance. He had received the gold medal of the Royal Society and the Albert Medal of the Society of Arts.

THE death is also anounced of Mr. H. T. Coxwell at the age of 81 years. With Mr. Jamer Glaisher, F.R.S., he made in the early sixties a number of balloon ascents, including a noted one to a height of seven miles, which yielded important contributions to entomology.

THE following deaths have also occurred among men of science abroad: Dr. Karl Friedrich Rammelsberg, formerly professor of chemistry, in the University of Berlin, on December 29th, at the age of 86 years; Dr. Giovanni Zoia, professor of anatomy at Pavia, and M. Mather, the mineralogist, of Marseilles.

M. CAURO, assistant professor of physics at the Paris School of Pharmacy, has been killed while making experiments on Mt. Blanc on the interruption of the electric current through ice.

AT the meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, on December 26th, a life-size portrait of Linnaeus was presented to the Academy by Mr. Charles E. Smith. It is a copy by Mr. Boude-Wijnse of the original portrait belonging to Baron Verschuer at present in his country house near Haarlem. In an interesting letter read before the Academy, Mr. Smith states that he had been searching for the portrait for about 20 years, and explains how he had overcome the difficulties in finding the picture and securing the copy.

THE Torrey Botanical Club has appointed a committee to prepare a program in commemoration of the life and work of Dr. John Torrey, to be presented before Section G, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at its meeting in New York, in the last week of June, 1900.

THE will of Ex-Chief Justice, Chas. P. Daly, made, it appears, in addition to the public bequests already noted, a bequest of $20,000 to the New York Botanical Garden, payable on the death of his wife's sister. The Garden also receives one-twelfth of the residual estate.

MR. and Mrs. Samuel M. Nickerson have given to the Art Institute of Chicago, their entire art collection, said to be the most valuable private collection of ivories and rare oriental carvings in Chicago, and the second in value in the United States.

THE annual meeting of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution was held at Washington on January 24th. The report of Secretary Langley for the year ending June 30, 1899, was presented and accepted.

THE House Committee on Agriculture has authorized a favorable report on the bill to reorganize the Weather Bureau, the chief provisions of which were described in a recent issue of this JOURNAL.

THE New York Botanical Garden announces among recent accessions, a gift of 25 microscopes from Mr. W. E. Dodge, to be used as part of the permanent display in the Museum; the greater part of the botanical library of the late Dr. Hossack; a herbarium, containing many valuable specimens, from Mr. John J. Crook; 200 drawings made by the late Professor August

Koehler, and plants from Mr. H. P. Kelsey and Mr. Nathaniel Thayer.

M. MAURICE LÉVY, in assuming the Presidency of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in January 2d, made two requests, as follows: "La première, que nous commencions toujours nos séances à l'heure réglementaire; ce sera d'autant plus expédient cette année que le public comprendra souvent des étrangers, envers lesquels, citoyens d'une République, nous devrons observer cette vertu des rois: l'exactitude; la seconde, qu'au cours de nos séances, notre attention, qui est toujours très grande, veuille bien toujours se montrer aussi silencieuse qu'elle est grande.

IT is stated that Herr Vaze, the German Polar explorer will lead an expedition into the Arctic regions next summer in the hope of finding traces of Andrée.

ON the 20th of February Mr. A. P. Low of the Geological Survey of Canada, who has explored the Labrador Peninsula during the past eight years and only recently returned from an eighteen months' sojourn in that once but little-known land, will deliver a lecture upon the Labrador Peninsula under the auspices of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club in the Academic Hall of Ottawa University. The lecture will be illustrated with lantern slides.

IT is reported that the Navy Department and the Lighthouse Board of the Treasury Department have declined to accept the terms offered by Mr. Marconi's representative, and will make experiments with a view to developing an independent method of wireless telegraphy.

THE Fifth Section of the International Congress of Comparative History to be held at Paris during the Exposition is a congress on the history of science. The *British Medical Journal* states that the object of the promoters is to bring together persons interested in the study of the history of the various sciences, and to prove to them that it will be to their common advantage to work together, so as to render the study of original documents easier. The Organizing Committee, of which M. Paul Tannery is president, has drawn up a long list of subjects which are considered to be ripe for discussion. Proposals for schemes for encouraging the study of the history of science are also invited. The Congress will have an independent organization and will be held from July 23d to July 28th. The official language will be French, though papers in German, English or Italian will be received. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Sicard de Plauzoles, Rue St. Dominique 124, Paris. Among the committee are Professor Paul Berger, Prince Roland Bonaparte, Professor Brissaud, Professor Hahn, the Prince of Monaco, Prince Henri d'Orleans, Dr. Pozzi, and Professor Charles Richet.

THE London *Times* states that at the meeting of the British Astronomical Association, on December 27th, Mr. Maunder made a statement with reference to the arrangements that are being made for the proposed expedition to Spain and Algeria, to view the solar eclipse of May 28, 1900. He said that, subject to a sufficient number of passages being actually taken before January 31st, the Royal Mail steamer *Tagus* or a sister vessel would be engaged, and would start from Southampton on Friday, May 18th, at 6 p. m., calling at Cadiz and Alicante, and arriving at Algiers at 6 a.m., on Thursday, the 24th. The vessel would stay there until after the eclipse, leaving at 6 a.m., on Tuesday, the 29th, and calling at Alicante, Gibraltar, and Lisbon on the way to Southampton, which would be reached at 7 a.m., on Monday, June 4th. It was hoped the members of the Association would divide themselves into three groups—those observing the eclipse (1) in the interior of Spain: (2) at Alicante or neighborhood, and (3) in Algeria, where the ship would act as hotel for those who might wish to use it in that capacity. The first party would, it was expected, break up into two chief sections—those who would alight at Cadiz and rejoin the ship at Alicante, and those who would rejoin the ship at Gibraltar. The entire party would thus have the opportunity of visiting Gibraltar and Lisbon. The latter port, however, would only be visited in case it was quite free from plague infection. In case a sufficiently large party should wish to alight at Cadiz and visit the chief cities of Southern Spain, arrangements would be made with Messrs. T. Cook and Sons for tours to Seville, Cordoba, Granada, and other places of

interest. All these arrangements, however, would fall through unless a sufficient number of passages had been definitely engaged before January 31st.

At a recent meeting of the British Departmental Committee on preservative matters in food, Professor A. Wynter Blythe testified according to the *London Times*, that formerly it was quite rare to find aniline dyes in food, the simpler forms of colors, such as cochineal and burnt sugar, being used, but latterly it was quite rare to find natural colors. The rule and not the exception now was to use so-called tar colors. Dye was not largely used in coloring wine, as the grape gave it a sufficiently nice color. In no substance, however, which he had examined would the quantity of aniline dye, even supposing it to be poisonous, be enough to injure health; but having regard to the many things colored in this way, it was a question whether the collective amount which a child, say, might take in a day might not have some injurious effect. The great majority of these dyes were not poisonous. Injurious, as distinct from harmless, colors should be scheduled. There would be little difficulty in prohibiting aniline dyes and in detecting a breach of the prohibition. Such a prohibition would be useful, and the drawing up of the schedule would be easy for some central authority, say the Local Government Board, or the Board of Agriculture. It should be made the duty of the vendor to declare the presence of coloring matter. As to boracic acid in milk, he did not approve of treating an almost universal article of food with a drug, unknown to the consumer, but it would be very difficult to forbid it altogether in, say, London, where the bulk of the milk came from the country, and where much would be spoilt unless a preservative were used. Here also the presence of the preservative should be notified. Salicylic acid was not much used except in temperance drinks to arrest alcoholic fermentation. Mr. Richard Bannister, Fellow of the Institute of Chemists and of the Chemical Society, and late Deputy-Principal of the Inland Revenue branch of the Government Laboratory, said bacon was at present brought into England with the aid of borax; it would not be possible to bring it over in refrigerators, as was done with fresh meat, except at a great increase of cost, and even then it would not be in exactly the same condition as at present, or equally fit for the English market. Both in the bacon and butter trade he considered preservatives a necessity. There would be no objection to making it obligatory on the vendor of milk to notify the presence of a preservative, but there would be difficulty in stating the amount, because it was difficult to estimate its amount. Salicylic acid was chiefly used in British wines and liquids which were presented in a clear form, and in which there was not a sufficient quantity of alcohol to make them clear and bright.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

President Schurman has announced an anonymous gift of $80,000 for Cornell University to erect a building for physiology and anatomy.

By a decision of the New York Court of Appeal, Yale will receive the $150,000 bequeathed by William Lampson.

President Bashford of the Ohio Wesleyan University announces that Mrs. Elizabeth Mebarry of Richmond, Ind., who recently gave $50,000 to the university, has added $10,000 to the fund, thus endowing two chairs.

A course in landscape architecture to extend through four years has been arranged by the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University.

The trustees of the University of Cincinnati have declared vacant nine of the twelve professorships, and one of the remaining three professors has since resigned. The instructors and assistants also retire.

Mr. S. T. Dutton, Superintendent of Schools in Brookline, Mass, has been elected professor of school administration in Teachers College, Columbia University.

The *American Geologist* states that Mr. A. G. Leonard has charge of the geological work at the University of Missouri in the absence of Professor Marbut.